REMARKS

Applicant would first like to thank Examiner Musa for this examination.

Claims 1-30 are currently pending in the application, and claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by US Pat. No. 7,188,143 to Szeto (hereafter Szeto).

SPECIFICATION

The office action argues that the title is not descriptive. Applicants have amended the title to: "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CONTROLLING USE OF INSTANT MESSAGE CONTENT AT A TARGET COMPUTER", obviating this objection.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 USC 102

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by US Pat. No. 7,188,143 to Szeto (hereafter Szeto).

Applicant respectfully contends that claim 1 is allowable because in includes a feature that is neither disclosed nor suggested by Szeto or any other reference cited, namely "determining a requested use attribute for instant message content generated by the source computer". As clearly provided in Applicant's specification, the use attribute is an attribute that controls use of the instant message content at a target computer from a source computer {0020 lines 6-15}. For example, the use attribute may include settings at the target computer such as disallowing target computer functions that could compromise the security of instant message content. These functions might include screen capture, screen printing, IM application logging, IM printing, IM joining of a third party, etc. As will be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art, these functions could be used to make a record of instant message content without the knowledge or approval of the user at the source computer.

Szeto is directed to controlling the environment or presentation of instant messages through processing instant message commands between the instant messaging client 212 and the conversation user interface 216 (see col. 6 lines 28-30). Szeto does not disclose or suggest determining a use attribute of instant message content. Szeto does not disclose or suggest controlling use of instant content beyond the presentation of the content at the user interface.

The Office Action of August 9, 2007 suggests that this feature is disclosed by Szeto (at col. 3 line 1), Applicant respectfully disagrees. The cited text provides that "the instant messaging environment can request and retrieve the selected *instant messaging application* based upon the application identifier." The instant messaging application referred to is defined (at col. 1 lines 55-58) as software for implementing an instruction set in an instant messaging environment.

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Thus, Szeto provides that the environment can request and retrieve an instruction set for the interface (i.e., appearance of the instant message window 204 – see col. 5 lines 9-12).

Applicant respectfully contends that claim 1 is also allowable because in includes another feature that is neither disclosed nor suggested by Szeto or any other reference cited, namely "sending the requested use attribute to the target computer". As explained above, the use attribute is not same as an instant messaging environment. The use attribute is the target computer's access or ability to use the instant message content beyond the instant message beyond the conversation user interface, same as printing, saving, etc. The instant messaging environment is controls the display of the instant messages at the conversation user interface.

Applicant respectfully contends that claim 1 is also allowable because in includes another feature that is neither disclosed nor suggested by Szeto or any other reference cited, namely "receiving an indication verifying whether a content controlled instant message session is supported at the target computer". This feature allows the user of the source computer to verify that the target computer has the ability to control use of instant message content before sending instant messages containing confidential information. As clearly provided in the present specification this feature provides that the source computer receives an indication that the target computer has the mechanism (IMCC component 140B for example) to control the use of instant message content as required by the source computer for the content controlled session {0023}. Szeto does not disclose or suggest receiving an indication verifying whether a content controlled instant message session is supported at the target computer. The Office Action of August 9, 2007 suggests that this feature is disclosed by Szeto (at col. 8 line 65). Applicant respectfully disagrees. The cited text addresses an environment sent to the target computer by the source (rather than being retrieved from a cache at target computer or downloaded from a website). An authorization code or signature used to verify the integrity of the environment means that the target computer can verify that the integrity of the environment by checking the authorization code or signature. This does not suggest that the target computer verifies content use controls and sends a message back to the source.

Applicant respectfully contends that claim 1 is also allowable because in includes another feature that is neither disclosed nor suggested by Szeto or any other reference cited, namely "the content controlled instant message session controlling the use of content provided over the session at the target computer in accordance with the session use attribute". As clearly provided in the specification {0040} the present invention provides for disabling features such as printing, clip boarding, logging, etc. by issuing program function calls, for example. This results in the operating system of the target computer not executing operating system controlled commands. Szeto dies not disclose or suggest this feature.

The Office Action of August 9, 2007 suggests that this feature is disclosed by Szeto (at Col. 5 line 36) which states:

"User interface commands are transferred from the instant messenger client to the

conversation user interface to cause the conversation user interface to display instant
messages and their corresponding environment to the user."

And (Col. 6 line 6) which states:

"In one embodiment, instant messaging server 214 receives a message, processes the
message and transfers the message to instant messaging client 212."

Applicants respectfully disagree. As shown in Fig. 2, each computer comprises an instant
messenger client (202, 212) and a conversation user interface (204, 216). User interface
commands are commands that control the appearance of an instant message on the computer's
user interface (see col. 5 lines 36-39). Moreover, the referenced transfer is between the instant
messenger client and the conversation user interface on the same computer. Thus, the user
interface commands do not control use of the content at the target computer. The instant message
server (214) is an intermediary server. This text refers to the path that the message follows. I

Claims 2-3, 5, and 31 depend from claim 1 and Applicant respectfully contends that they
are allowable for the reasons presented above.

Applicant respectfully contends that Claim 2 is also allowable because it includes another
feature that is neither disclosed nor suggested by Szeto or any other reference cited, namely "the
received indication further includes an indication that a use content feature on the target computer
corresponding to the requested use attribute has been activated". This feature provides an
indication that a specified use control has been activated at the target computer. Szeto does not
disclose or suggest either a use content feature (which controls the use of features on the target
computer such as printing, screen capture, etc) or receiving an indication that such use content
feature has been activated at the target computer. The Office Action of August 9, 2007 suggests
that this feature is disclosed by Szeta (at col. 1 line 40). Applicants respectfully disagree. The
cited text provides that "the instant messaging client may display various means and buttons that
activate common instant messaging functions such as changing font, ringing another user,
inserting symbols, etc." Common instant messaging functions as provided in Szeto are display
options. They do not control usage of the instant message content. Moreover, Szeto does not
address providing an indication of activation of usage controls to the source computer.

Applicant respectfully contends that Claim 3 is also allowable because it includes another
feature that is neither disclosed nor suggested by Szeto or any other reference cited, namely "the
controlled use of content feature is a disabled printing function, a disabled screen capture
function, a disabled third party join function, a disabled clipboard copy function, or a disabled
logging function at the target computer. As clearly indicated in the Applicant's specification, it is
important to control these use of content features because these features could compromise the
security of instant message communications. Szeto does not disclose or suggest controlling any
of these use of content features. The Office Action of August 9, 2007 suggests that control of
these features is disclosed by Szeto (at col. 13 line 56; col. 4 line 8; col. 12 line 36; Figs. 10; col. 1

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line 32; col. 1 line 48; col. 5 line 46; and Figs. 1 and 3). Applicant respectfully disagrees. The cited text comprise a user interface window in which a computer monitor contains a history window for text message content; the use of third party servers for instant messaging; the use of third party servers for instant messaging; various instant message system block diagrams; an instant messaging server performing functions to facilitate the transfer of messages; a message server performing the functions of receiving messages and transferring them, replacing certain text with symbols, or otherwise modifying or relaying messages; a definition of user interface commands including functions, behaviors, actions, capabilities, etc. that are features of the user interface or the instant messaging window; diagrams illustrating instant messaging user interfaces ; (all of which are well known in the art and do not suggest disabling any of the functions enumerated in claim 3 at the target computer).

Applicant respectfully contends that Claim 5 is also allowable because it includes another feature that is neither disclosed nor suggested by Szeto or any other reference cited, namely "updating the session use attribute during communication over the content controlled instant message session after the establishing of the content controlled instant message session step". This feature is important because it allows a user to change the controlled attributes during an instant message session, so that if, during the session the user decides to transmit sensitive content, the use attribute can be modified during the session to prevent compromising sensitive content. Szeto does not disclose or suggest changing use attributes during an instant message session. The Office Action of August 9, 2007 suggests that this feature is disclosed by Szeto (at col. 6 line 34 and col. 9 line 49). Applicant respectfully disagrees. The cited text provides updating an environment before it is implemented (col. 6 lines 30-36) and accessing environment information without loading the environment (col. 9 lines 41-50). Both cited texts specifically exclude changing an environment during a session (note that Applicants, as provided above, do not concede that an environment is equivalent to a content controlled session).

Applicant respectfully contends that Claim 6 is allowable because it includes a feature that is neither disclosed nor suggested by Szeto or any other reference cited, namely "the target computer having a program for performing the steps of: receiving a first message containing a first requested use attribute from the source computer; reading the first requested use attribute; determining whether a content use feature corresponding to the first requested use attribute is supported on the target computer; and sending a second message indicating the support of the content use feature to the source computer." This feature allows the target computer to respond to a request from the source computer to control a use attribute, to determine whether the target computer supports the use attribute and to sent a response to the source computer to indicate the support. Thus, the program at the target computer interacts with the source computer to read the requested use attribute, determine whether it supports that use attribute and communicate the support to the source computer. Szeto does not disclose or suggest a program at a target computer that reads a requested attribute, determines whether it the target computer supports the requested attribute and communicates that support to the source computer. Applicants respectfully contend that a messaging environment is not the same as a use attribute for the reasons previously presented in this amendment. Moreover, even if, arguendo, they were equivalent, Szeto does not

communicate a target computer's support of a messaging environment, but rather loads the requested environment.

Claims 7-12 depend from claim 6, and Applicant respectfully contends that they are allowable for the reason that claim 6 is allowable. Applicants respectfully contend that claims 7-12 are further allowable for the reasons previously presented in this amendment with respect to claims 2-3, 5.
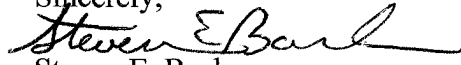
Applicant respectfully contend that independent claim 13 and dependent claims 14-18 are allowable because they include features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited reference as explained previously in this amendment with respect to claims 1-3 and 5-12.

Applicants respectfully contend that claim 19 and 24 are independent claims claiming the methods carried out by the program products of claims 1 and 6, respectively, and include the features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by Szeto as explained previously with respect to claims 1 and 6. Applicants further contend that dependent claims 20-23 and 25-30 are also allowable because they include features previously discussed with respect to claims 2-3, 5 that are neither disclosed nor suggested by Szeto.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and arguments presented herein, Applicant respectfully contends that claims 1-3 and 5-31 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-3 and 5-31 and issuance of letters patent.

Sincerely,

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